

May 12, 2019

VIA FOIAONLINE

Manager Records Office
US Postal Service
475 L'enfant Plaza SW Rm 1p830
Washington DC 20260-1101

To the responsible FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request any correspondence to or from the United States Postal Service and any other department or agency of the Executive branch, including any offices connected with the President or Vice president, concerning plans, policies, or programs regarding implementation of a registration or detention program for 1) persons of the Muslim faith, regardless of nationality (including natural born or naturalized American citizens) or 2) persons of Arab or Persian/Iranian heritage in the event of the declaration of a national emergency by the President or the enactment of an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) or Declaration of War (DoW) against any nation:

- 1) In which Islam is the predominant religion; or
- 2) In which the country or countries against which an AUMF or DoW corresponds to a specific Arab heritage, Persian/Iranian heritage, or other ethnic, religious, or racial heritage group present in the United States.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a research fellow and scholar at the Cato Institute, an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational and public interest organization. As I am employed by an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for a commercial use. **I request a waiver of all fees for this request.**

Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Whenever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic Portable Document Format (PDF).

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail. My email address is peddington@cato.org and my cell number is 571-215-3468.

Exhibit A

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency.

As a civil liberties research fellow, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about potential federal government plans to identify and detain persons in the categories cited above in the event of a Presidential declaration of national emergency, or the enactment of an AUMF or DoW against any country in the Middle East or Southwest Asia. Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the Department conducted nationwide sweeps targeting men of Arab heritage or Muslim faith under the color of immigration laws while searching for alleged al Qaeda “sleeper cells” in the United States. The public, and the heritage communities in question, deserve to know whether, in light of the Trump administration’s continued or threatened military actions in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, whether Arab, Persian/Iranian, or Muslim Americans remain target of potential custodial detention by federal authorities.

As a Cato scholar, I meet the statutory definition of a “representative of the news media” per *Cause of Action v. F.T.C.*, 799 F.3d 1108 (D.C. Cir. 2015) as Cato and its scholars (1) gather information of potential interest (2) to a segment of the public; (3) use editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work; and (4) distribute that work (5) to one or more audiences. **Accordingly, I ask for expedited processing on that basis.** I certify that my statements concerning fee waivers and expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



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